

Food Safety at the National/Federal Level

CIFOR

Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak
Response

What is CIFOR?

CIFOR is a multi-disciplinary group convened to increase collaboration across the country, across relevant areas of expertise and across those affected by foodborne outbreaks, in order to reduce the burden of foodborne illness in the United States.

Report by Dennis Perrotta:

- “Foodborne Disease Outbreak Investigation Capacity of State Health Departments: Gaps and Promising Practices”.
- Ten themes were identified as well as associated promising practices:
 - Public Health Structure influences capacity
 - Foodborne disease investigation can be complex and require a great deal of coordination.
 - Public health must be notified of an outbreak before it can respond.
 - There exists a gap between environmental health and epidemiology

Perrotta Report Continued

- ❑ Standards for Outbreak Investigations are lacking
- ❑ Etiological agent and or vehicle of disease often is not identified
- ❑ Multi-state investigations are extremely challenging
- ❑ Historical data regarding outbreaks not readily available
- ❑ Lack of qualified staff remains a great barrier to outbreak investigation
- ❑ Evaluation is critical to enhancing the system

Vision of CIFOR

- Local, State and Federal partners collaborating effectively to reduce the burden of foodborne illness in the United States

Mission of CIFOR

- To improve methods at the local, state and federal levels to detect, investigate, control and prevent foodborne disease outbreaks

Projects of CIFOR

- Food Safety Clearinghouse
- Foodborne Disease Investigation Guidelines
- Multi-jurisdictional Guidelines
- PulseNet Efficiency
- Foodborne Illness Complaint System
- Outbreak Training
- Industry Workgroup
- Epi/Lab Reporting
- Cluster Definitions

CIFOR Partners

- [Association of Food and Drug Officials \(AFDO\)](#)
- [Association of Public Health Laboratories \(APHL\)](#)
- [Association of State and Territorial Health Officials \(ASTHO\)](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists \(CSTE\)](#)
- [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#)
- [National Association of County and City Health Officials \(NACCHO\)](#)
- [National Environmental Health Association \(NEHA\)](#)
- [United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)

Current FDA Initiatives

- FDA Food Protection Plan
 - Released November 2007
- Gateway to Food Protection
 - August 2008

FDA Food Protection Plan

- Prevention
 - Primarily focused around collaboration with other federal, state and local partners
- Intervention
 - Improve the targeting of risk-based inspections
- Response
 - Traceability and recall capabilities

Gateway to Food Protection

- 3-day national meeting to build upon their new integrated approach of prevention, intervention and response.

The Food Safety Research Consortium

- The Food Safety Research Consortium is a collaboration among diverse research institutions to improve the effectiveness of the U.S. food safety system in reducing foodborne illness. The widely-shared vision of a science- and risk-based approach to food safety requires new analytical and decision tools for devising research, regulatory, and educational interventions and making resource allocation decisions. www.thefsrc.org

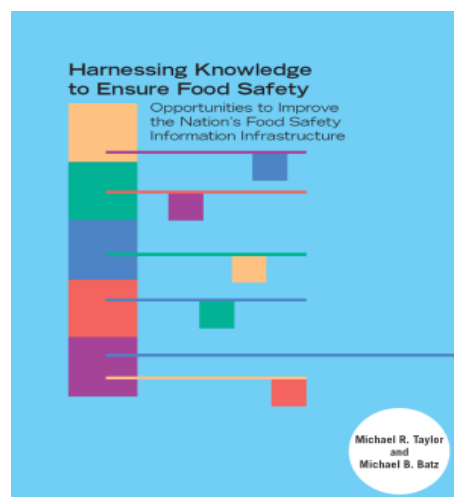
The Food Safety Research Consortium

- **Enhancing the Roles of State and Local Government in an Integrated, Prevention-Oriented Food Safety System**
- **Food Safety Information Infrastructure**
- **Developing and Applying a Descriptive Framework for Analyzing Food Safety Resources**

Enhancing the Roles of State and Local Government in an Integrated, Prevention-Oriented Food Safety System

- The project will formulate a modern vision for a nationally integrated food safety system, identify obstacles to achieve that vision, recommend changes in law, policy and practice to enhance the effectiveness of state and local food safety agencies, identify opportunities to improve coordination among all levels of government, and describe food safety resource needs at the state and local level.

Food Safety Information Infrastructure



Developing and Applying a Descriptive Framework for Analyzing Food Safety Resources. Goals:

- Develop a feasible framework for organizing government food safety expenditures into functional categories that enable the evaluation of resource allocation from a public health perspective;
- Apply the framework at the federal level to describe how food safety resources are currently allocated across these public health-oriented categories and recent trends in expenditures, including federal allocations to state and local agencies;
- Apply the framework to selected states and localities to assess its feasibility and usefulness for that purpose; and
- Produce a tool that can be used on an ongoing basis to improve risk-based resource allocation in government food safety programs.